sentations have been received from the All India Food Preservers' Association from time to time mentioning problems being faced by the food and vegetable processing industry and making various suggestions in this regard. The suggestions relate to, *inter alia*, need for giving fiscal concessions, need for developing linkages between production, processing and marketing, development of suitable packaging materials, coordination of research and development activities, etc.

Government takes into account suggestions received from various organisations while formulating policies and programmes for the development of the food processing sector. Various measures, such as inclusion of most food processing industries in Appendix-I, broad banding of certain food processing industries, granting of fiscal concessions from time to time such as providing relief in excise duties/customs duties, setting up of Development Councils, etc. in addition to formulation of a number of schemes to support the growth of food processing industries have been taken by the Government.

Review of Import Policy

*214. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request for reviewing the import policy which has had received any request for reviewing the import policy which has had deleterious effects on the agricultural commodities and cash crops of Kerala like coconut, rubber, spices, etc.; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The main points in the representations were that the new Import & Export Policy in respect of agricultural and plantation products—coconut oil, copra, natural rubber, coir yarn, cocoa and spices would have adverse effects on the farmers of Kerala.

(b) There has been no change in the new Import & Export Policy for the above mentioned items except for nutmeg and mace. Import of these two items which was earlier allowed under Open General Licence by all persons for stock & sale has been tightened by bringing them into the licensable category in the new Import & Export Policy.

Proposal to set up Statutory Handloom Board

*215. SHRI KOTAIAH PRAGADA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a statutory Handloom Board on the lines of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission; and

(b) if so, when such a Board will be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. There is, however, an All India Haundlooms & Handicrafts Board with advisory functions on matters relating to handlooms and handicrafts.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Capital goods for manufacturing camera roll films

*216. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister